



UNDERSTANDING PROPHECY:

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL WEEK 5

PREPARED BY:

Andrea Gehrett

OUTLINE & TENTATIVE DATES

5/2

01

INTRODUCTION: AN UNFOLDING OF GOD'S
STORY THROUGH AGES, TIMES, & MYSTERIES

5/9

02

WHO ARE THE JEWS?
PAST, PRESENT, &
FUTURE

6/27

09

DANIEL CH. 6

5/16

03

WHO IS THE CHURCH?
PAST, PRESENT, &
FUTURE

7/4

10

DANIEL CH. 7

5/23

04

WHO ARE THE
GENTILES? BEGIN
DANIEL CH. 1

7/11

11

DANIEL CH. 8

5/30

05

DANIEL CH. 2

7/18

12

DANIEL CH. 9

6/6

06

DANIEL CH. 3

7/25

13

DANIEL CH. 10

6/13

07

DANIEL CH. 4

8/1

14

DANIEL CH. 11

6/20

08

DANIEL CH. 5

8/8

15

DANIEL CH. 12

05

DANIEL CHAPTER 2

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

Read: Daniel 2:1-13

- Who was called before the king? Did he tell them his dreams?
- What impact did the dreams have on him?
- What did the king command concerning the dreams?
- We learned last week that Ashpenaz feared his life because Nebuchadnezzar was an absolute ruler. What was the "firm" decision made by the king?
- What charge did the king have against the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, & Chaldeans resulting in his withholding of information about the dreams?
- What was their response to what Nebuchadnezzar was asking them to do? Who did they say were the only ones who could perform such a task?
- What was commanded in the king's fury? How many of the wise men were to be destroyed?
- As soon as the decree was given and killing began, who were they looking for?

Read: Daniel 2:14-23

- What did Daniel ask Arioch? Had Daniel been aware of what had been taking place?
- What request did Daniel make and to whom? Sometimes it's the simple and practical steps we struggle with. Do you find it difficult to ask for favors? Even more so, why was Daniel's bold ask so risky?
- Once time had been granted, what was the first thing Daniel did? Why? What does this tell you about Daniel's faith? What does this tell you about the collective prayers of believers?
- Daniel and friends sought mercy. What happened next?
- How was the secret revealed to Daniel?
- Daniel blessed God for the revelation. Discuss verse 22 in comparison with Romans 13:12.

Read: Daniel 2:24-49

- Daniel told the king that only God is able to reveal secrets. God revealed that Nebuchadnezzar's dream relates to when?
- Did Daniel take credit for the interpretation because of his wisdom? Who gave him that wisdom (1:17)? Was there any way Daniel could have taken credit for this?
- What were the two reasons the interpretation was given? What does this tell you about God?
- Describe the great, awesome image from the dream.
 - Head = gold = 19.5
 - Chest & arms = silver = 10.47
 - Belly & thighs = bronze/brass = 8
 - Legs = iron = 5
 - Feet = part iron & part clay = 1.93
 - **Top heavy! Notice the diminishing values and the specific gravity of the metals
 - THEN....the Stone cut out without hands & strikes feet
- Generally speaking, what did Daniel tell Nebuchadnezzar the declining metals represented?
- Who is the head of gold in the image, or the "Colossus"?
- Knowing Nebuchadnezzar's authoritative personality, what was so bold about Daniel's statement in verses 37 - 39. How would this challenge the king's "glory"?
- How many kingdoms are described? How is the second kingdom described? The third? What happens to the fourth kingdom?
- What does verse 42 say about the fourth kingdom?
- What final kingdom is setup? How long will it stand? What will it do to the other kingdoms?
- What was the last thing Daniel declared in verse 45? Do you see a parallel in absolute decisiveness with what God revealed to Nebuchadnezzar and with the way Nebuchadnezzar phrased his decision in 2:5? How do you think this revelation confronted the king and his idea of self-supremacy?

IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT DANIEL HAS PROGRESSIVE VISIONS THAT BUILD UPON EACH OTHER. EACH SHEDS FURTHER LIGHT AND INTERPRETATION OF THE FULL MEANING. THE IMAGE OF THE COLOSSUS IS ONLY THE FIRST VISION.

THEREFORE, WE WILL TALK MORE ABOUT "WHO" THE KINGDOMS ARE AS THE VISIONS PROGRESS. FOR NOW, LET'S DIG DEEPER INTO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STONE.

As this vision pertains to latter days, this study will focus more on the fourth kingdom and its relevance.

It has been documented on the pages of history through the rise and fall of the first three kingdoms over the span of time that man attempts to build his own kingdom and enters into "matrimonial" alliances. Countries and kingdoms intermarry yet their ties to marriage and blood aren't strong enough to cause them to cleave to and abide by one another. This is depicted in verse 43 as iron and clay cannot cement together.

One can just about live under a rock and still know the common thread of politics and world powers. Ambition and worldly interests trump marital bonds and engage worldly leaders to partner with each other's enemies. The result? Wars. The more powerful iron will trample the weaker clay.

From a worldly perspective, ambition will always be a stronger force than affinity or marital ties amongst rulers. BUT, those are worldly kingdoms...Gentile nations...crafted by man.

A KINGDOM NOT BUILT BY HANDS

Read: Exodus 20:22-26, Deuteronomy 27:5-6

- The law of the altar required that it be made of what? Solely for what?
- Read and discuss verse 23. What do you glean from this command given and why uncut stones were significant? How was this boundary used to protect His people?
- If the altar were made of stone, what kind of stones were to be used? What was prohibited? Why?
- Were steps allowed going up to the altar? Why?
- Can you name an instance where man was condemned for violating this command? Israel throughout the Old Testament was guilty for pagan worship at where?
- H2719: the Hebrew word for tool can also mean: **sword, knife, axe, dagger, mattock**. It has been suggested that another reason for unhewn stones is because these instruments often lead to death. What is the purpose of the altar and what should it lead to?

Read: 1 Peter 2:3-10

- How is Christ described?
- How is the Church described? For what reason?
- Compare Daniel 2:22 with 1 Peter 2:9. Discuss a key role we have as living stones.
- Why uncut stones? (Don't miss the bigger picture!)
 - God is the Master Builder of the Kingdom. Sacrifices and offerings are only acceptable because of what He has done. The stones in the altar should represent the work of God, and thus, should be unhewn (like the "stone cut without hands" in Daniel.) If the stones were to be hewn by human hands, it would profane the imagery and there would be temptation to worship man's own effort.
 - The altar should represent the Kingdom of God, and should be made of stones, which represent the people of God.
 - It is hard to miss the similarity... the people of God are being built up together like "stones" for the purpose of "offering sacrifices."

Read: Daniel 2:34 & 45

- Any time repetition is used in Scripture it's worth noting or taking a closer look. Which phrase is repeated?
- Another passage of Scripture emphasizes the importance of repetition which we will see again in this study. Refer back to Joseph's interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams. What does he tell Pharaoh in Genesis 41:32? The NIV translation uses a specific phrase stating that the matter had been "firmly decided." If repetition is a tool God uses to get our attention, then how does the repetition in Daniel chapter 2 speak to the believer? Again, going back down to verse 45, how was the dream declared? What does this tell you about God's plans?
- In short, God gave Nebuchadnezzar a dream which used the imagery of a "stone cut without hands." It was explained: God was using a "stone cut without hands" to represent a Kingdom which would be set up by God (as opposed to man). The stone cut without hands would also be the instrument that brought about the destruction of idols.
- For a moment, let's skip ahead and read Daniel 4:30-32. What was the king boasting about? What happened the moment those words came from his mouth? How did this display God's feelings about idol worship? How should Nebuchadnezzar connect the dots of the forthcoming Stone?

Read: Daniel 2:46-49

- How did Nebuchadnezzar respond to Daniel's interpretation?
- How did the favor granted to Daniel by God position him to be a living stone in Nebuchadnezzar's life?

**THE RISE AND FALL OF IDOLATROUS NATIONS WILL
ULTIMATELY END IN DESTRUCTION BY THE LIVING STONE AS
HE SETS UP HIS EVERLASTING KINGDOM. THIS IS THE DEMISE
OF THE GENTILES WHO REJECT THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE,
AND THIS IS A KEY FOCUS OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL.**